

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30, 1926**

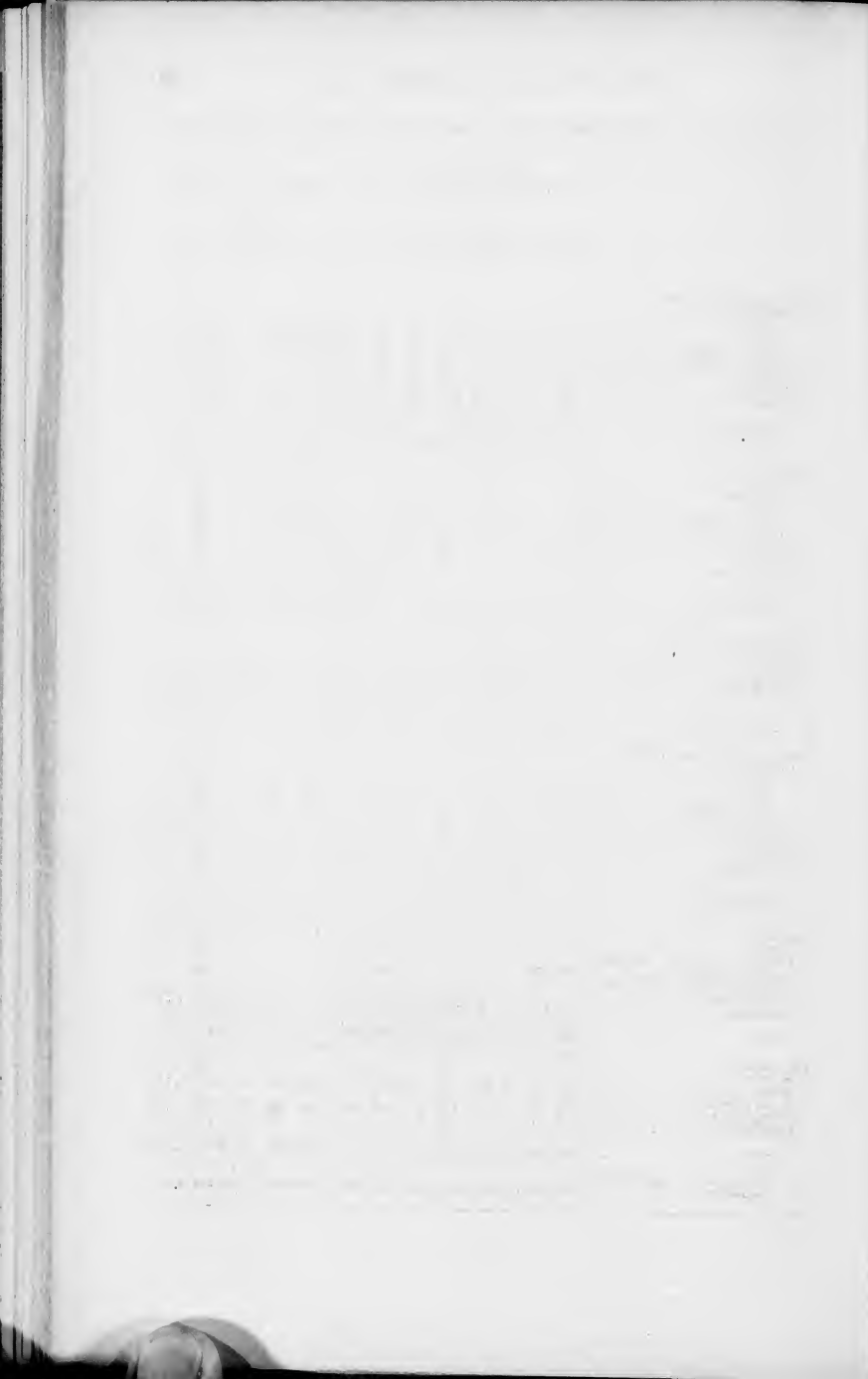


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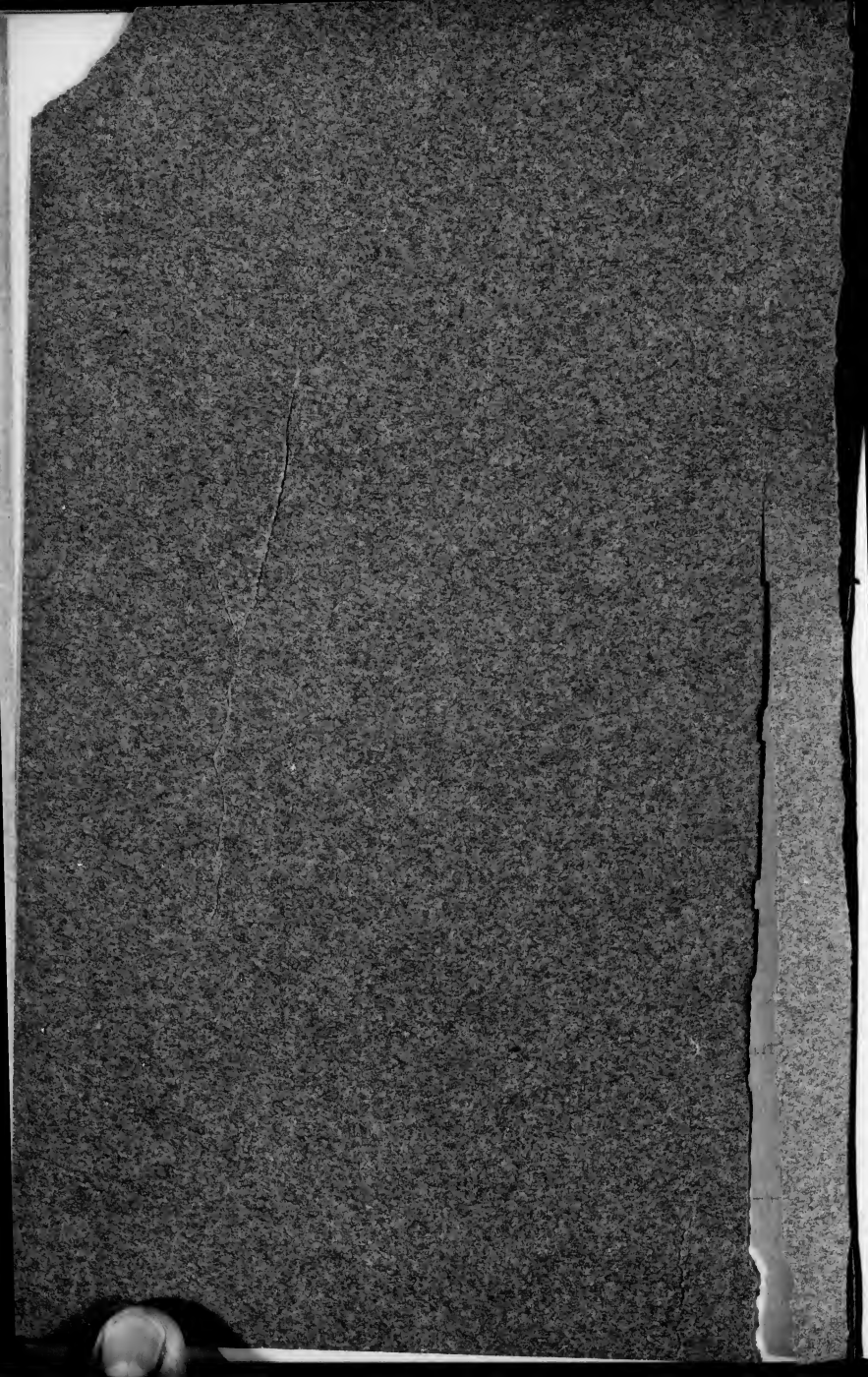
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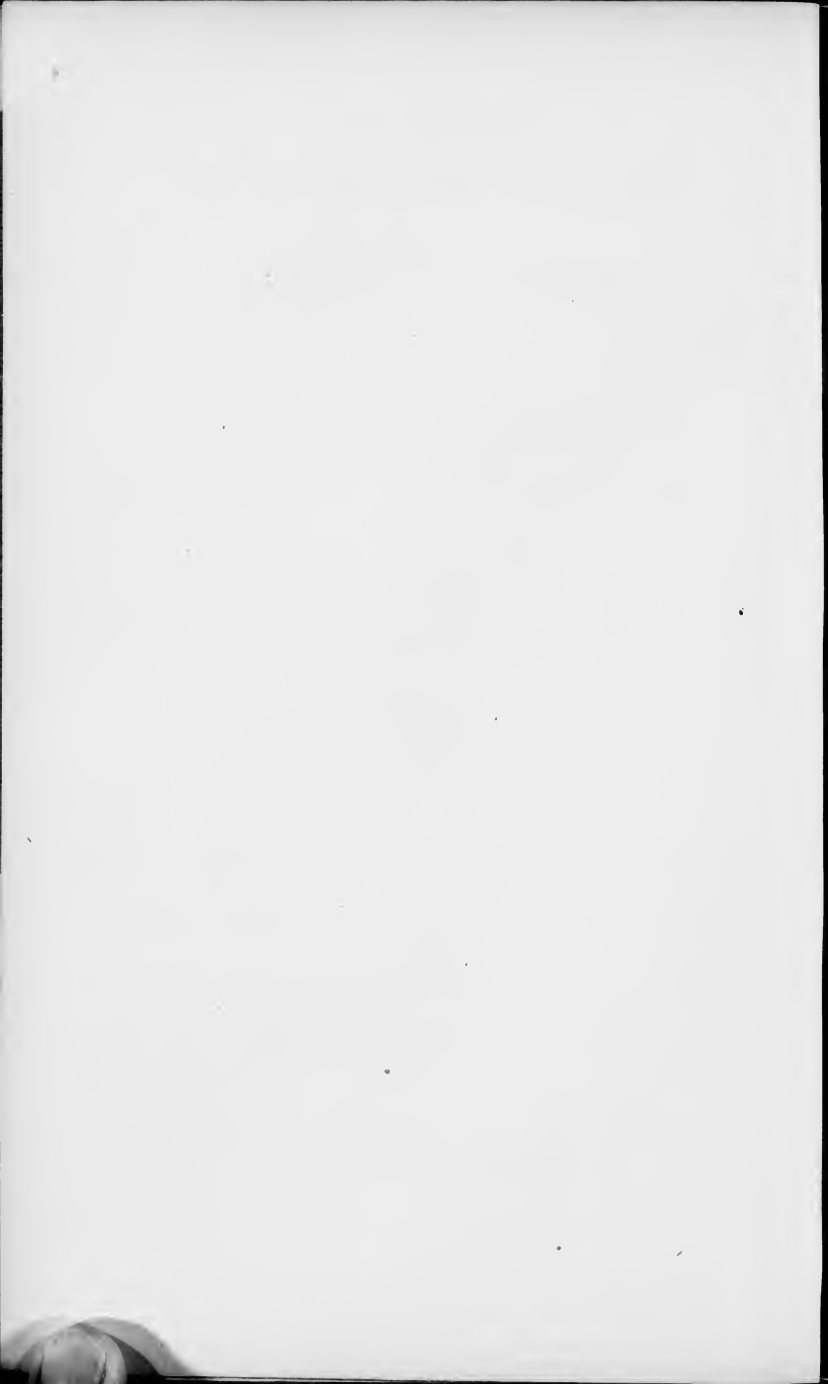
REPORT OF
THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE
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FOR THE

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1926



REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 1, 1926.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia:

I submit the following report covering the operations of the fire department during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926:

During the year 3,647 alarms of fire were received, this number being 769 in excess of the number received during the fiscal year 1925. Of these alarms 1,599 were box alarms and 2,048 were local or telephone calls, an increase in box alarms of 279 and in local alarms of 490.

False alarms during the year numbered 297, an increase of 70 over the number received during the preceding year. These were investigated by the police department and by the fire marshal's office, but in only three cases could sufficient evidence be obtained for conviction. In one case a sentence of 90 days in jail was imposed, in another \$100 collateral was forfeited, and in the third the penalty was 45 days in jail and a fine of \$100.

Fifteen fires, undoubtedly of incendiary origin, and 42 fires of a somewhat suspicious nature were encountered during the year. In four of the former cases convictions were obtained and penalties imposed as follows: One offender was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary and three offenders were found to be of unsound mind and were placed in asylums. Arrests were made in five other cases, but sufficient evidence could not be obtained to warrant convictions.

The police department rendered valuable cooperation in these cases.

The estimated loss from fire during the year was \$1,268,954. This is an increase of \$431,758 over the amount of the loss for the preceding year. Practically the entire amount of increase was caused by damage resulting from a fire at the United States Army air station, Bolling Field, Anacostia, D. C., on January 26, 1926, which damage amounted to \$399,740. Attention is invited to the fact that never in the history of the department have as many fires occurred in a single fiscal year as during the one just closed. Twenty-four of these fires required the sounding of additional alarms.

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire-prevention work, under the supervision of the fire marshal, has been continued and numerous fire hazards have been abated by his force. The inspection of schools, apartment houses, hotels, asylums, etc., by officers and members in battalion districts has also borne fruitful results. The latter inspection work, which during

the year involved 126,225 separate visits, should be extended to include all mercantile or business establishments, but it is not practicable to accomplish this with the present force. An augmented personnel to accomplish the desired result will be recommended in the future, but at the present time it is felt that other and more vital needs should be given precedence.

DISCIPLINE

During the year it was necessary to remove six members for violation of the rules and regulations. Less drastic disciplinary measures were administered in 158 cases. Serious infractions of discipline were few in number and the conduct of the men was uniformly excellent.

PENSIONS

The following pensions were granted during the year :

Capt. J. T. Rossiter was retired on July 7, 1925, and granted relief in the amount of \$104.16 per month.

Pvt. W. H. Lyon was retired on July 15, 1925, and granted relief in the amount of \$80 per month.

Pvt. C. V. Mackintosh was retired on July 31, 1925, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Pvt. W. C. Ricks was retired on September 1, 1925, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Pvt. W. H. Lacy was retired on November 10, 1925, and granted relief in the amount of \$70 per month.

Capt. E. L. Moffett was retired on March 31, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$104.16 per month.

Pvt. W. E. Mothershead was retired on April 15, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Sergt. T. Inscoc was retired on April 26, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$91.66 per month.

Pvt. M. Gallagher was retired on May 31, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Capt. T. F. Warren was retired on May 31, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$104.16 per month.

Pvt. R. I. Williams was retired on June 15, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Pvt. C. H. Ward was retired on June 30, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Mrs. Lillian W. Mann, widow of the late Pvt. J. L. Mann, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective August 30, 1925.

Mrs. Mary Martin, widow of the late Capt. P. D. Martin (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective November 10, 1925.

Mrs. Sarah Luskey, widow of the late Capt. William Luskey (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective November 2, 1925.

Mrs. Mary Childs, widow of the late Pvt. James Childs (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective February 10, 1926.

Mrs. Clara L. Caffrey, widow of the late Pvt. G. A. Caffrey, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month for her personal use and \$10 each for three children, effective March 20, 1926.

Mrs. Mary Laughton, widow of the late Pvt. E. F. Laughton, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective March 24, 1926.

DEATHS

The deaths of the following members and pensioners are reported with regret:

Pvt. J. L. Mann died August 27, 1925.

Pensioner P. D. Martin died October 25, 1925.

Pvt. G. A. Caffrey died February 16, 1926.

Pensioner W. H. J. Bradekamp died January 23, 1926.

Pvt. E. F. Laughton died March 2, 1926.

Pensioner William Luskey died October 30, 1925.

Pensioner James Childs died February 7, 1926.

Pensioner Mary V. Lewis died June 4, 1926.

Pvt. J. L. Mann was killed when the apparatus of No. 21 Engine Company was in collision with a street car at Fourteenth and Harvard Streets NW.

Pvt. E. F. Laughton was killed by a falling chimney at a fire.

NEW COMPANIES

In my last annual report I called attention to the fact that work had been begun in connection with the erection of No. 29 engine house, Conduit Road and Reservoir Street NW., and No. 13 truck house, Florida Avenue and Orren Street NE. These houses were completed and the two companies in question were formally placed in service at 8 o'clock a. m., December 9, 1925.

An additional truck company, No. 14 truck, was placed in service in the quarters of No. 28 Engine Company, Connecticut Avenue, between Ordway and Porter Streets NW., at 9.08 o'clock a. m., June 15.

These three units filled long-needed wants in the department, and the protection afforded their surrounding localities has been, of course, materially improved.

REORGANIZATION OF BATTALIONS

On December 9, 1925, the department organized a new battalion district, known as the central battalion, with its headquarters at No. 2 engine house, Twelfth between G and H Streets NW. This change provided an additional chief for the down-town congested-value district, and thus assured the speedy arrival of two chiefs at any fire occurring in that locality. It has undoubtedly resulted in greatly added protection for the territory served.

In order to place battalion chief engineers' headquarters at points more closely approximating the center of their first-alarm districts, the headquarters of the first battalion was transferred from No. 4 truck house, New Jersey Avenue and M Street NW., to No. 12 engine house, North Capitol and Quincy Streets NW.; and the headquarters of the third battalion from No. 1 truck house, New Jersey Avenue between D and E Streets NW., to No. 8 engine house, North Carolina

Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets SE. This also has greatly improved the service by insuring quicker response of a battalion officer to alarms in the localities mentioned.

CALLING THE OFF-DUTY PLATOON

The fire-fighting force, which consists of about 800 men, is divided into two equal shifts. The off-duty men are subject to call in case of a fourth, fifth, or sixth alarm or other emergency, and this reserve force is one of the chief advantages of the double-platoon idea.

The matter of promptly reaching the off-duty platoon has always been more or less of a problem for fire departments throughout the country, and has been, of course, given careful consideration here. As a result, in January, 1925, each officer and member of the District of Columbia fire department was directed to provide himself with facilities for being reached by telephone when off duty. The telephone numbers furnished by the men are recorded at headquarters upon cards which are changed daily as companies change platoons and kept up to date. Upon receipt of a third alarm of fire, fire-alarm headquarters immediately notifies the chief clerk and the members of the department detailed for service in headquarters. These men at once report to the office of the chief engineer and place themselves in readiness to call the off platoon by telephone in case such action becomes necessary. Four direct trunk telephone lines between the main exchange of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. and fire-department headquarters have been installed, and the telephone company, immediately upon being notified of the contemplated calling of the off-duty platoon, assigns special operators to these lines.

This plan produced excellent results upon every occasion of its utilization and accomplished the speedy reporting of the men who were off duty. The majority of the men called report direct to the fire ground and are available for placing in service additional lines of hose, wagon, and ladder pipes, etc.

An order was issued during the year under the provisions of which the first four companies called to a fifth alarm respond with the hose wagon only, connecting to pumping engines of other companies upon their arrival at the fire ground. The engines of these fifth-alarm companies (which are equipped also as hose carriers) are left in quarters in charge of one competent operator, and the first duty of the headquarters detail upon arriving at the chief engineer's office is to call the off-duty platoon of these companies and have them report at once to their quarters. By this means four additional companies are rendered available for service within a very short time after the fifth alarm has been sounded. This provides greatly increased protection for the localities which have been left uncovered by the response of the large number of units which is required at fires of such magnitude.

ADDITIONAL RESCUE SQUAD

The rescue squad of the department, now in service in No. 2 engine house, has so proven its efficacy as to have become almost indispensable in the fire department's work.

An additional rescue squad should be provided for service in the upper northwest section of the city, where the life hazard, in event of fire, is probably greater than in any other neighborhood, and it is hoped that some means may be found in the near future for this augmentation of the service.

NEW APPARATUS

The following new apparatus was received and placed in service during the year:

A gasoline and oil tank truck (serial No. 405), for supplying fuel and lubricants to apparatus on the fire ground, was placed in service in No. 4 truck house on January 29, 1926.

An aerial truck (serial No. 317), was placed in service on November 30, 1925, in No. 13 truck house.

One combination hose wagon (serial No. 229) and one 750-gallon pumping engine (serial No. 104) were placed in service in September, 1925, in No. 5 engine house.

One combination hose wagon (serial No. 230) was placed in service September 30, 1925, in No. 28 engine house.

One 750-gallon pumping engine (serial No. 113) was placed in service on September 24, 1925, in No. 13 engine house.

One 1,000-gallon pumping engine (serial No. 123) was placed in service October 5, 1925, in No. 23 engine house.

One roadster automobile (serial No. 25) was placed in service September 28, 1925, in No. 1 truck house (since transferred to No. 2 engine house, for use by central battalion chief engineers).

One roadster automobile (serial No. 26) was placed in service March 8, 1926, in No. 14 engine house for use by the deputy chief engineers.

An additional roadster automobile (serial No. 27), purchased to replace a car which was demolished in an accident, is now on hand and will be placed in service in the near future.

Most of this new apparatus replaced old out-of-date, unreliable machines and the service is correspondingly bettered thereby.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for improvements in the service which involve the necessity of additional funds have been forwarded to the commissioners in the form of estimates for the fiscal year 1928.

CONCLUSION

The officers and members of the department have acquitted themselves with credit during the year and have been attentive to their duty, efficient in their work, and loyal in their attitude. I express to them my sincere thanks.

To the commissioners my appreciation is extended for the support which they have accorded me in my administration of fire department affairs.

GEO. S. WATSON,
Chief Engineer.

APPENDIX

REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1926.

TO CHIEF ENGINEER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT:

I submit the following report of activities of the fire marshal's office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926:

During the year 3,647 alarms of fire were received and investigated by this office. This is an increase of 769 over the number received during the preceding year. Of these 3,647 alarms of fire 1,599 were box alarms, an increase of 279 box alarms over the number received during the preceding year; 2,048 were local alarms or telephone calls, an increase of 490 over the number received during the preceding year.

The loss caused by the 1,599 box alarms is estimated at \$1,208,014, part of which is covered by insurance of \$18,049,605. The loss caused by the 2,048 local alarms is estimated at \$60,940, part of which is covered by insurance of \$10,767,155. The total loss for the fiscal year is estimated at \$1,268,954, a fraction over 4.4 per cent of the total insurance of \$28,816,760.

During the year 18 fires occurred for which additional alarms were received. They were as follows:

July 12, 1925, box 8122, at 3.08 a. m., followed by a second at 3.13 a. m., a third at 3.16 a. m., a fourth at 3.19 a. m., and a fifth at 3.22 a. m., for fire in two-story brick garages located at 1417 to 1423 Irving Street NW.; estimated loss-----	\$51. 075
July 13, 1925, box 191, at 11.03 p. m., followed by a third at 11.06 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick restaurant located at 1016 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss-----	5. 600
July 27, 1925, box 217, at 6.13 a. m., followed by a third at 6.17 a. m., for fire in a two-story brick church located at 1500 Ninth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	37, 000
September 1, 1925, box 729, at 3.57 a. m., followed by a second at 4.03 a. m., and a third at 4.08 a. m., fire in a two-story brick laundry located at 2627 K Street NW.; estimated loss-----	10. 000
October 12, 1925, box 596, at 11.29 a. m., followed by a second at 11.43 a. m., for fire in a four-story stone jail located at Nineteenth and B Streets SE.; estimated loss-----	5. 000
December 28, 1925, box 17, at 4.49 p. m., followed by a third at 4.52 p. m., and a fifth at 5.06 p. m., for fire in a five-story brick candy factory located at 336 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss--	23, 800
January 4, 1926, box 636, at 7.19 a. m., followed by a second at 7.30 a. m., and a third at 7.53 a. m., for fire in three-story brick rooming houses located at 217 to 221 East Capitol Street; estimated loss-----	7, 150
January 26, 1926, box 936, at 12.08 a. m., followed by a second at 12.20 a. m., for fire in a steel airplane hangar and shop located at Army air station, Bolling Field, D. C.; estimated loss-----	399, 740
January 31, 1926, box 847, at 4.20 a. m., followed by a second at 4.28 a. m., a third at 4.35 a. m., a fourth at 4.37 a. m., and a fifth at 4.41 a. m., for fire in a six-story brick apartment house located at 2520 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	58, 150
February 15, 1926, box 127, at 11.43 p. m., followed by a third at 11.55 p. m., and a fifth at 12.06 a. m., February 16, for fire in three brick three and four story stores located at 905 to 911 Seventh Street NW.; estimated loss-----	65, 500
March 5, 1926, box 131, at 4.58 a. m., followed by a second at 5 a. m., a third at 5.08 a. m., and a fifth at 5.19 a. m., for fire in four three-story brick stores and a 10-story stone office building located at 900 to 910 F Street NW.; estimated loss-----	57. 948

March 23, 1926, box 657, at 4 p. m., followed by a second at 4.09 p. m., for fire in a two-story brick vinegar and pickle establishment located at 1100 and 1102 First Street NE.; estimated loss-----	\$12, 125
April 13, 1926, box 822, at 9.40 p. m., followed by a second at 9.48 p. m., and a fourth at 9.54 p. m., for fire in a two-story frame storage house for lumber, located at Sixth and W Streets NW.; estimated loss-----	7, 600
April 19, 1926, box 185, at 7.30 p. m., followed by a second at 7.43 p. m., for fire in a two-story brick shoe store located at 1207 F Street NW.; estimated loss-----	105, 000
June 2, 1926, box 429, at 5.35 p. m., followed by a second at 5.44 p. m., for fire in a wharf storage house, office, and boat, located at Water and O Streets SW.; estimated loss-----	18, 000
June 9, 1926, box 245, at 4.23 a. m., followed by a second at 4.40 a. m., for fire in two four-story brick stores located at 1907 to 1909 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	16, 660
June 10, 1926, box 629, at 7.20 p. m., followed by a second at 7.28 p. m., for fire in a one-story frame and metal waste-paper warehouse located at Twenty-sixth Street and Benning Road NE.; estimated loss-----	5, 000
June 19, 1926, box 714, at 12.41 p. m., followed by a second at 12.47 p. m., for fire in a two-story brick garage and storage house located at 3141 to 3143 O Street NW.; estimated loss-----	11, 000

It will be noted that 17 of the foregoing fires involved a loss each of \$5,000 or more. In addition to these 17 fires 7 other fires occurred in the District of Columbia during the year, involving a loss each of \$5,000 or more, for which only single alarms were sounded. They were as follows:

November 3, 1925, box 151, at 1.59 a. m., fire in a two-story brick millinery store located at 1415 F Street NW.; estimated loss-----	6, 100
December 28, 1925, box 844, at 5.39 p. m., fire in a one-story brick church located at Thirtieth and Irving Streets NW.; estimated loss-----	6, 500
December 21, 1925, box 854, at 9 a. m., for fire in a four-story stone dwelling located at 2201 R Street NW.; estimated loss-----	17, 000
January 14, 1926, box 172, at 9.59 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick Army and Navy store located at 1203 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss-----	17, 800
January 31, 1926, box 856, at 5.08 a. m., fire in a bowling alley in a three-story stone building located at 2320 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	34, 600
March 17, 1926, box 8177, at 5.32 p. m., fire in a two-story brick dwelling located at 7409 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss--	6, 000
June 15, 1926, box 126, at 1.50 a. m., fire in a five-story brick printing shop, three-story brick awning factory, and four-story brick electrical shop located at 905 to 913 E Street NW.; estimated loss--	10, 720
Total-----	995, 068
Loss for the remaining 3,622 fires-----	273, 886

Total estimated loss for the year----- 1, 268, 954

FIRE LOSS COMPARISON

The loss for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, when compared with the loss for the preceding year shows an increase of \$431,758. More than one-half of the total loss was caused by seven fires, namely: Fire at Bolling Field, \$399,740; Hahn's shoe store, \$105,000; Liggett's drug store, \$57,948; Victoria Apartments, \$58,150; stores at 905 to 911 Seventh Street NW., \$65,500; candy factory, \$23,800; and colored church, \$37,000, making a total for these seven fires of \$747,138.

During the year the District of Columbia fire department responded to 96 fires at near-by points in Maryland and Virginia, an increase of 33 calls from these States over the number of calls received from them during 1925. In each of these cases the District fire department rendered all assistance possible in extinguishing these fires and preventing their spread.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FIRE

Automobiles—Backfiring; electric wires short circuited; gasoline leaking; gasoline fumes ignited-----	441
Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning-----	491
Chimneys—Soot in; defective-----	417
Electric wires short circuited-----	89
Matches—Carelessness with; children with; rats or mice with-----	211
Smoking, careless-----	390
Smoke scare-----	123
Sparks-----	187
Stoves-----	102

FALSE ALARMS

During the year 297 false alarms were received, an increase of 70 as compared with the preceding year. Members of the fire marshal's office and the police department made thorough investigations in each case. In one case a colored man was found guilty and sent to jail to serve 90 days, and in each of two other cases a white man was arrested and found guilty: one forfeited \$100 collateral and the other was sentenced to serve 45 days in jail and pay a fine of \$100. The guilty parties in the remaining cases were not apprehended.

INCENDIARY AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES

During the year there were 42 fires of a suspicious nature and 15 undoubtedly of incendiary origin. In four of the latter cases the guilty parties were apprehended and arrested. A colored man set fire to a church and was sentenced by the court to serve two years in the penitentiary; a white man set fire to a rooming house and was found to be demented and was sent to an asylum; a white boy set fire to an apartment house; he also was found to be demented and was sent to an asylum; as was also the case of a colored boy who set fire to an apartment house. Arrests were made in five other cases, but the parties were released on account of lack of evidence.

PROSECUTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF FIRE-PREVENTION REGULATIONS

During the year there were 20 cases in which warrants were obtained for violation of the fire-prevention regulations. In the majority of these cases the parties were fined by the court, and in the remaining cases they were released on their personal bonds, after having remedied the violation.

FOURTH OF JULY FIRES

There were only four fires caused by fireworks during the Fourth of July celebration in the fiscal year just ended. This is an increase of one over the previous year. This, however, is a very great improvement over former years when there was no prohibition on the sale and use of fireworks in the District.

INFLAMMABLE OILS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES

During the fiscal year 1,308 applications to handle kerosene were received and acted upon by this office.

There were installed and put into operation 902 oil-burning heaters, making a total of 2,079 plants of this character now in the District of Columbia. In addition to these there are now pending about 280 applications for the installation of oil-burning heaters.

Owing to the rapid increase in the number of these installations an additional man has been detailed for inspection work in this connection, making two men in all on this work, who devote their entire time to the inspection of oil-burner installations.

Three hundred and twenty-four installations of gasoline tanks were made in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year. As in the case of the oil-burning plants, careful inspections were made to see that the regulations governing the installation of these tanks were complied with. At the end of the fiscal year there were in operation in the District 458 gasoline stations.

Fifty-four licenses were approved by this office to handle ammunition for small arms other than cartridges for pistols.

INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections made during the year by the corps of inspectors connected with the fire marshal's office was 61,943; of this number 2,083 were complaints. Six thousand and eighty-eight notices were served to remedy conditions creating fire hazards, and as stated elsewhere in this report, 20 of these cases were taken to court.

In addition to the above inspections 126,225 inspections were made of apartment houses, hotels, asylums, private and public schools, etc., by firemen connected with the various fire stations.

All motion-picture theaters and open-air motion-picture parks in the District of Columbia were inspected to see that all fire appliances were in proper working order prior to issuance of annual licenses. Each motion-picture theater and each open-air motion-picture park, in addition to the foregoing inspections, was inspected by members of the fire marshal's office at least once each week while the theater or park was open to the public. All told, there were 60 motion-picture theaters and motion-picture parks in operation during the year. In addition to these there were in operation 12 "legitimate" theaters.

As in former years, a uniformed member of the fire department was detailed for duty at each performance in the "legitimate" theaters. All scenery arriving in the District for use in any of them was tested as to fireproof qualities.

In many halls and places of public assembly where entertainments were held one or more uniformed firemen were in attendance during such entertainment, and it was seen by members of this office that all scenery and decorations of a combustible nature used in connection with these gatherings were treated with a fireproof solution.

MOTION-PICTURE OPERATORS

During the year 28 parties were examined in this office who applied for permits to operate motion-picture machines.

MOTION-PICTURE FILM EXCHANGES

An inspector of this office detailed especially for the inspection of film exchanges makes a test once each month of the sprinkler system in all film exchanges in the District, and at least three times each week he makes a thorough inspection of all the exchanges, including the several Government motion-picture laboratories and film storage rooms.

CONCLUSION

In closing this report permit me to express my appreciation for the cooperation given me during the past year by members of the fire marshal's office and of the various fire stations, who assisted in the work of inspecting and reducing fire hazards.

L. V. SEIB, *Fire Marshal*.

TABLE No. 1.—Number of alarms responded to by companies

	First alarm	Second alarm	Third alarm	Fourth alarm	Fifth alarm	Local alarm	Pumping time, engine and wagon	Hose laid	Hose burst	Ladders raised	Fire extinguished by chemicals		Hand pumps used	Transfers	Special alarms
											Hand	Wagon			
Engine company:							<i>H. m.</i>	<i>Feet</i>	<i>Feet</i>	<i>Feet</i>					
No. 1.....	258	5	4			98	50 45	46,600	50	152	55	28	20	5	---
No. 2.....	254	5	4	1		93	56 15	32,000	100	198	17	103	6	6	1
No. 3.....	304	4	3	2	1	57	51 51	40,550	100	44	11	61	4	4	---
No. 4.....	248	11	6	2	5	36	17 --	21,950	150	24	14	38	6	2	---
No. 5.....	120	1		2	3	77	78 --	41,150	100	312	23	36	20	2	---
No. 6.....	402	4	2			76	82 50	33,600	50	106	49	44		3	---
No. 7.....	343	4	5			91	92 --	58,100	550	112	10	112	11	8	---
No. 8.....	281	7	3		2	62	43 15	27,400	800	64	44	24	12	7	1
No. 9.....	267	3	4			127	58 50	32,550		84	10	53	16	8	---
No. 10.....	220	3		2	4	79	50 30	36,700	500	36	34	30	7	2	---
No. 11.....	217	1	2	1	2	105	68 30	30,450		50	23	5	1	1	---
No. 12.....	274	5	4			77	74 30	40,550	650	174	45	45	28	10	---
No. 13.....	168	2	4		2	40	46 --	27,250	100	30	30	19	8	5	---
No. 14.....	308	1	3	3		46	88 45	30,000	50	100	25	52	2	3	---
No. 15.....	79	1			1	41	12 50	25,350		224	24	12	4	4	---
No. 16.....	245	1	6	1		38	69 15	20,250		180	29	25	8	5	---
No. 17.....	55			1	1	52	20 45	14,500	200	312	8	11	12	5	---
No. 18.....	233	3	1		2	68	43 --	36,900	150	138	19	38	12	6	---
No. 19.....	89	1			1	50	17 15	13,650	100	32	17	8	6	5	1
No. 20.....	37				2	96	26 --	13,900	100		10	9	2		---
No. 21.....	168	3	1		3	50	53 20	23,250		36	28	13	8	5	1
No. 22.....	64			1	1	98	28 30	29,000	200	56	20	11	6	1	---
No. 23.....	165	3	6	1	1	65	22 30	23,350	100	68	32	29	20	8	---
No. 24.....	163	6	3	2	4	43	73 --	28,550	100	250	32	48	16	5	---
No. 25.....	38					57	26 30	17,650		124	16	7	8	2	---
No. 26.....	54				1	59	27 --	13,000		180	18	9	7	4	2
No. 27.....	44	1				49	23 --	23,750	100	228	16	14	11	14	---
No. 28.....	51	1	1			72	34 --	10,950	50	76	23	14	9	7	---
No. 29.....	19					37	15 45	7,950		40	4	3	6	7	---
Truck company:															
No. 1.....	235	3	1	1	2	35				3,536	4		2	5	---
No. 2.....	205	6	4	1	1	86				3,340	19		8	4	---
No. 3.....	235		1	2		51				4,260	5			2	---
No. 4.....	394	3	4			120				4,589	32		4	6	---
No. 5.....	50	1			2	26				1,226	4		3	5	---
No. 6.....	182		3	1		61				1,663	16			2	---
No. 7.....	164	5			3	55				1,755	15		7	6	---
No. 8.....	37					13				569	4	3	2	2	---
No. 9.....	100					28				1,654	4			3	---
No. 10.....	199		2		2	18				1,665	31		3	12	---
No. 11.....	36					49				1,180	12	8		2	---
No. 12.....	31		1			36				814					---
No. 13.....	113			1	3	29				1,800	27	1	3	7	---
No. 14.....						1				30	1				---
Fireboat No. 1.....	19					11	10 55	3,550	100	12			1		---
Rescue squad.....	306	2				18	21 10								---
Water tower.....		2	9				1 --								---

Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926

	Number		Number
Alarms, false.....	297	Automobiles—Continued.....	
Alarms, no fire:		Engine overheated.....	2
Ammonia plant leaking.....	16	Friction of brakes ignited grease.....	1
Automobile collided with fire-alarm box.....	1	Gasoline dropped on electric light bulb and ignited.....	1
Automobile overturned.....	1	Gasoline dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	34
Barrel of shellac spilled in yard.....	1	Gasoline fumes ignited.....	6
Boat sinking in river.....	3	Gasoline ignited when drive shaft broke.....	1
Boy's head jammed between elevator and floor.....	1	Gasoline line leaking.....	8
Canopy of bandstand blown over on parapet.....	1	Kerosene lamp ignited car.....	2
Carboy of acid broke on street.....	1	Kerosene lamp ignited cushion.....	1
Cellar flooded with water.....	2	Kerosene lamp ignited truck.....	1
Children locked in attic.....	1	Looking in gasoline tank with lighted match.....	1
Chlorine escaping in laundry.....	1	Loose electric wire came in contact with gas tank.....	1
Coffee roaster exploded.....	1	Motor overheated.....	1
Erroneous alarms.....	2	Muffler blown off.....	1
Excavation caved in on man.....	1	Paper under seat ignited.....	1
Fire-alarm bells in apartment house rang accidentally.....	3	Rags dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	10
Fumes from acid entering store.....	1	Rag on engine caught fire.....	1
Fumes from fumigating outfit.....	1	Spark plug defective and ignited grease on engine.....	1
Gas escaping in house.....	3	Truck ran over burning dump and caught fire.....	2
Gas in combustion chamber of oil furnace exploded.....	1	Unknown origin.....	2
Gas water heater exploded.....	1	Backfire from carburetor on cement-mixing machine.....	1
Generator cap on gas-masking machine blew off.....	1	Belt on gasoline air compressor slipped and ignited.....	1
Hot-water boiler overheated.....	1	Bonfires.....	4
Hot-water boiler bursted.....	1	Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning.....	491
Hot water escaping from leaky radiator.....	1	Bunsen burner ignited material on work bench.....	1
Hot-water heater pipe bursted.....	3	Bunsen burner ignited rubber tube.....	1
Horse fell in canal.....	1	Bunsen burner pipe became disconnected.....	1
Large sign on building about to fall.....	1	Candle (sulphur), fumigating with.....	6
Locomotive overturned.....	1	Candle (wax), careless use with.....	4
Manhole covers blown off by short circuit in conduit.....	1	Carelessness with fire.....	23
Man's hand caught in washing machine.....	1	Celluloid came in contact with hot stove.....	1
Noise in steam radiators.....	1	Chaff from coffee roaster ignited.....	1
Noise of overheated boiler frightened tenants.....	1	Charcoal (burning) dropped into combustibles.....	1
Odor of gasoline in halls.....	1	Chicken brooder overheated.....	2
Plate-glass window fell on two men.....	1	Children playing with fire.....	65
Plug in bottom of water truck blew out.....	1	Chimney, defective; soot in; overheated.....	417
Reflection of light mistaken for building afire.....	2	Christmas tree ignited from toy electric train.....	3
Rescue squad called to assist police catch burglars.....	1	Clothes basket full of clothes on top of furnace caught fire.....	1
Rescue squad sent for woman who fainted.....	1	Clothes boiling dry on stove.....	2
Roof burdened with heavy snow.....	2	Clothing fell from couch on gas log.....	1
Roofs blown off houses.....	1	Clothing too close to hot-air register.....	1
Safety valve on steam boiler blew off.....	1	Coal gas exploded.....	1
Smokepipe to furnace fell out of chimney hole.....	1	Covering on steam pipe ignited.....	1
Steam escaping.....	10	Drier, defective installation, floor ignited.....	1
Steam-heating boiler leaking.....	1	Dust in bowl of one-pipe furnace ignited.....	1
Steam-boiler valve leaking.....	3	Electric brushes short-circuited.....	1
Stovepipe full of soot fell on floor.....	1	Electric cable short-circuited in slot rail.....	4
Tree fell across electric wires.....	1	Electric iron, current left on.....	1
Tree fell on street and obstructed traffic.....	3	Electric-light bulb ignited combustibles.....	14
Trolley car collided with automobile.....	1	Electric switch box on pole short-circuited.....	1
Water jacket in incinerator bursted.....	1	Electric wires came in contact with tree and ignited same.....	1
Water pipe bursted.....	1	Electric wires connected to oil burner short-circuited.....	1
Acetylene torch ignited grease in grease stack.....	1	Electric wire fell from pole to street.....	1
Alcohol fumes exploded.....	1	Electric wires in gasoline short-circuited.....	2
Alcohol lamp fell on cot and ignited same.....	1	Electric wire in buildings short-circuited.....	58
Ashes (hot), carelessness with.....	23	Electric wire in manhole short-circuited.....	3
Automobiles:		Electric wire on pole short-circuited.....	8
Acetylene light exploded on truck.....	1	Electric wire in street short-circuited.....	13
Backfired.....	111	Electric wire short-circuited by falling limb of tree.....	1
Bonfire ignited car.....	1	Explosion of pressure tank.....	1
Brake bands smoking.....	8	Fats, meats, grease and foodstuff burning on stoves.....	47
Carburetor leaking.....	16	Flames from incinerator mistaken for house afire.....	2
Collision between two automobiles.....	5	Flue, defective.....	25
Collision with pole.....	1		
Collision with street car.....	1		
Collision with tree.....	1		
Drop light ignited cushion.....	1		
Electric wires short-circuited.....	217		

Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926—Continued

	Number		Number
Film in motion-picture machine ignited.....	6	Liquid solution containing gasoline ignited from electric plug.....	1
Fire fell from stove on floor.....	1	Matches:	
Fire built in washbowl to keep room warm.....	1	Carelessness with.....	120
Fire built in old tree.....	1	Children playing with.....	73
Fireplace, defective.....	12	Ignited from friction.....	1
Fireworks ignited combustibles.....	4	Rats or mice causing matches to ignite.....	17
Friction ignited grease on elevator machinery.....	1	Mischievous fires.....	7
Fuel oil spilled on floor and ignited.....	1	Motor short circuited.....	1
Fumigating with inflammable liquid.....	1	Oil ignited while being heated.....	1
Furnace, combustibles too close.....	7	Oil-burning furnaces:	
Furnace installed on wood floor.....	1	Exploded.....	1
Furnace overheated.....	10	Ignited platform.....	1
Gas blazing from defective gas bracket.....	2	Incomplete combustion.....	1
Gas, carelessness with.....	6	Insulation on wire ignited.....	1
Gas escaping and ignited.....	12	Oil leaking; surplus oil in pit of furnace.....	11
Gas exploded.....	1	Pilot light went out and oil ignited.....	3
Gas engine ignited sawdust.....	1	Trip pan failed to work.....	5
Gas grill ignited grease on wall.....	1	Slow ignition.....	11
Gas heater too close to combustibles.....	2	Painter's torch, careless use.....	1
Gas jet in pressing machine left burning.....	1	Paper in oven of gas range ignited.....	1
Gas jet too close to combustibles.....	6	Paper on shelf over stove ignited.....	1
Gas log ignited trash.....	1	Paper on top of furnace ignited.....	1
Gas log installed defectively.....	2	Paper packed around steam pipe ignited.....	1
Gas mantle dropped from chandelier on table.....	1	Paraffine ignited while being heated.....	1
Gas pipe leaking and ignited.....	1	Pipe in proof box overheated.....	1
Gas range ignited floor; combustibles too near.....	3	Plow under street car short-circuited.....	1
Gasoline, carelessness with.....	8	Plumbers' gasoline furnace caught fire.....	1
Gasoline dropped in electric socket and ignited.....	2	Radio battery short-circuited.....	1
Gasoline, fumigating with.....	1	Railroad signal mistaken for house afire.....	1
Gasoline ignited from friction.....	3	Railroad ties ignited while being treated with creosote.....	1
Gasoline ignited from motor exhaust.....	1	Reflection mistaken for house afire.....	5
Gasoline ignited while cleaning motor.....	1	Rekindling of old fire.....	6
Gasoline ignited on street.....	2	Safety plug blew out of Presto light tank.....	1
Gasoline burner caught fire.....	1	Salamander ignited building.....	2
Gasoline fumes ignited.....	14	Sawdust became overheated and ignited.....	1
Gasoline put in lamp, lamp exploded.....	1	Sent apparatus to wrong location.....	2
Gasoline heater ignited clothing too close to same.....	1	Smoke scare.....	123
Gasoline torch ignited woodwork.....	2	Smoking, careless.....	390
Grass fire ignited old lumber.....	1	Smoke pipe:	
Grease from elevator dropped on furnace.....	1	Defective; soot in; close to combustibles.....	55
Grease in grease hood on gas range ignited.....	1	Disjointed; extended through wood; in false flue.....	12
Grease ignited by exhaust pipe.....	1	Ignited loose paper on wall.....	1
Grease in vent stack ignited.....	6	Smokepipe hole; covered with paper; left open; rags in.....	9
Grease on run rails of elevator ignited from friction.....	1	Sparks ignited combustibles.....	187
Heat from vent pipe ignited awning.....	1	Sparks mistaken for house afire.....	10
Heat pipe ignited clothing hung too close to same.....	1	Spontaneous combustion.....	22
Hot-air pipe overheated.....	1	Static electricity.....	4
Hot charcoal thrown on trash.....	1	Stationary engine ignited sawdust.....	1
Hot soot ignited oily mop.....	1	Stove (gas) overheated; close to woodwork.....	23
Hot tar set tar wagon afire.....	1	Stove (kerosene) caught fire; exploded.....	39
Hot-water heater overheated.....	4	Stove (coal) overheated; defective; combustibles close.....	40
Incendary fires.....	15	Stuffing box at motor overheated.....	1
Incinerator obstructed.....	2	Suspicious fires.....	42
Insulation burning off motor.....	1	Tar pot overheated.....	6
Iron (electric), current left on.....	1	Thawing valve and ignited oil.....	1
Iron (gas), gas left burning.....	1	Thawing water pipes.....	2
Iron (gas) ignited clothing.....	1	Tinner's charcoal furnace ignited roof.....	2
Iron (laundry) overheated; left hot on ironing board.....	3	Tinner's furnace put in closet, hot.....	1
Ironing board resting on gas range caught fire.....	1	Turpentine being heated on stove ignited.....	1
Joist extended into chimney.....	1	Two alarms for same fire.....	5
Kerosene, kindling fire with.....	4	Varnish remover ignited from friction.....	1
Kerosene torch ignited bridge.....	1	Wax boiling over caught fire.....	2
Lamp (kerosene) exploded; overturned; upset; thrown.....	19	Whisky leaking ignited from hot coal.....	1
Lantern upset.....	7	Whisky still exploded.....	1
Lightning, struck by.....	8	Wood left on top of chimney ignited.....	1
Line, slacking and ignited.....	1	Unknown origin.....	13
Lint on mangle machine ignited.....	1		
		Total.....	3,553
		Fires outside of the District of Columbia.....	94
		Total calls.....	3,647